



Initiative Interdisziplinäre
Antisemitismusforschung Trier

Conference Venue
University of Trier
Conference Date
24th February 2022
Conference Languages
German, English

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Antisemitismusforschung Trier**
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Call for Papers

Antisemitism in (Post)Migrant Society

Interdisciplinary Conference on 24th February 2022
at the University of Trier

The *Initiative Interdisziplinäre Antisemitismusforschung Trier* (Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism Trier) is organising an interdisciplinary conference on 24 February 2022 on the topic of antisemitism in (post)migrant society, which aims to bring together academic and civil society perspectives.

The conference intends to promote networking between scholars from different research disciplines and various actors from civil society and to explore the topic from different perspectives (historical, pedagogical, practical-empirical, sociological, etc.). We are particularly looking forward to contributions from young scholars.

The aim of the conference is to contribute to the critical examination of current and historical manifestations, causes and solutions of antisemitism in (post)migrant societies. The one-day conference will take place in Trier in cooperation with Mr Dieter Burgard (Commissioner for Jewish Life and Antisemitism Issues of the Minister President of Rhineland-Palatinate), the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration of Rhineland-Palatinate, the SEAL Research and Documentation Centre and the working group „Erinnerung der Großregion e.V.“

The event will take place in Trier, the conference languages are German and English.

The programme will be announced in September 2021.

1. Objective of the conference

Research dedicated to the phenomenon of antisemitism in (post)migrant society is frequently publicly criticised. It is said to promote racism against the disadvantaged and to serve right-wing populist movements such as the AfD with ammunition for their xenophobic positions. Based on this logic, the existence of antisemitism is sometimes denied or relativised and declared to be a fringe group phenomenon, in order to prevent racist discrimination.

However, instead of attributing the lack of confrontation with antisemitism in the (post)migrant society to a combination of opportunism and convenience, others explain these blind spots in antisemitism research with the help of conspiracy-mythological elements that attribute these voids exclusively to a supposedly governmental agenda.

In contrast to such positions, we believe that adequate knowledge of the issue, antisemitism, is essential for combating it. We consider research approaches that do not address certain problems because of a political agenda to be counterproductive. Thinking multi-dimensional discrimination without excusing antisemitism is the concern of antisemitism research that aims to abolish its subject.

The conference aims to contribute to an understanding of the problem that does justice to the complexity of the subject matter without lapsing into essentialist generalisations or relativising the problem apologetically.

2. Concept of the conference

The conference follows a discourse-oriented approach, which should allow for an intensive discussion of the content of pre-formulated contributions (see timetable). For this purpose, the conference is divided into panels, each of which will be moderated by a panel chair. At the beginning of each panel, the authors of the selected papers will be given the opportunity to briefly (max. 5 min) outline the theses of their own contribution. This will be followed by a discussion based on the papers. After the conference, the authors shall revise their papers in the light of the insights gained in the discussions and the controversies that still exist. Finally, these contributions will be published in an anthology.

3. Submissions and timetable

- Submission of draft contributions (1-2 pages) by 31 July 2021. We request a short (maximum half-page) description of your own biography. Please send the documents (contribution outline and self-description) to iia@uni-trier.de
- Evaluation of the proposals. Feedback by mid-August 2021
- Submission of completed papers (max. 10 pages, German or English) by 31 December 2021
- Distribution of the conference reader by mid-January 2022
- Conference: 24 February 2022
- Revision of papers until summer 2022

4. Suggestions for topics

Contributions could be dealing with the following topics:

Strategies for preventing and combating antisemitism

- Which antisemitic actors exist in (post)migrant societies? What are the similarities and differences and what are the consequences for adequate strategies to combat them?
- To what extent can historical education/critical historical awareness be a component of these strategies?
- How can academics and activists work together productively? Where do cooperations already exist? What is desired from the other side? Experiences from the field?
- Can places, spaces, forms or methods be identified in which or with which work against antisemitism is most effective etc.?

Assessment of antisemitic actors

- Which actors & organisations reproduce and spread antisemitism?
- Foreign contacts/foreign actors/influence of states on their respective diasporas
- The myth of "imported antisemitism"
- In which places, in which (social) spaces does antisemitism (most frequently) occur?

History of antisemitism in (post)migrant society

- What historical continuities can be established for antisemitism since 1945 in the FRG/GDR and then after reunification?
- How can different manifestations of antisemitism be historicised?
- Which perspectives are necessary/thinkable, which methods to achieve a historicisation?

Antisemitism and Multidimensional Discrimination

- What is the relationship between antisemitism and other forms of discrimination? Where are the differences, also with regard to combating antisemitism?
- What experiences of practical work and academic debate are there in and from other countries?
- What role does the category "gender" play in antisemitism, as well as in the relationship between antisemitism and multidimensional discrimination?

5. Board and lodging

Upon request, we will cover the travel costs for all speakers (air travel, train travel, car travel, etc.), accommodation costs as well as meals during the conference (except for the joint dinners).

The conference venue is wheelchair accessible.

We look forward to receive your application!

Initiative Interdisziplinäre Antisemitismusforschung Trier
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